

VISIT...

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WILLINGHAM  
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633  
DEC  
2004



# BATMAN

WAR

IS

AM

ES

ACT THREE  
PART 8 OF 8



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## THE LAST BATTLE





THAT IS,  
ASSUMING  
BATMAN HAS  
THE GUTS TO  
SHOW UP.

IF NOT,  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
SETTLE FOR A LIVE  
BROADCAST OF MY  
EXECUTION OF HIS  
LOVELY LITTLE BAT  
SECRETARY,  
MISS--?

WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME,  
SUGAR  
PLUM?

GO TO  
HELL!

WAR GAMES ACT 3 PART 8

# NO GOING BACK

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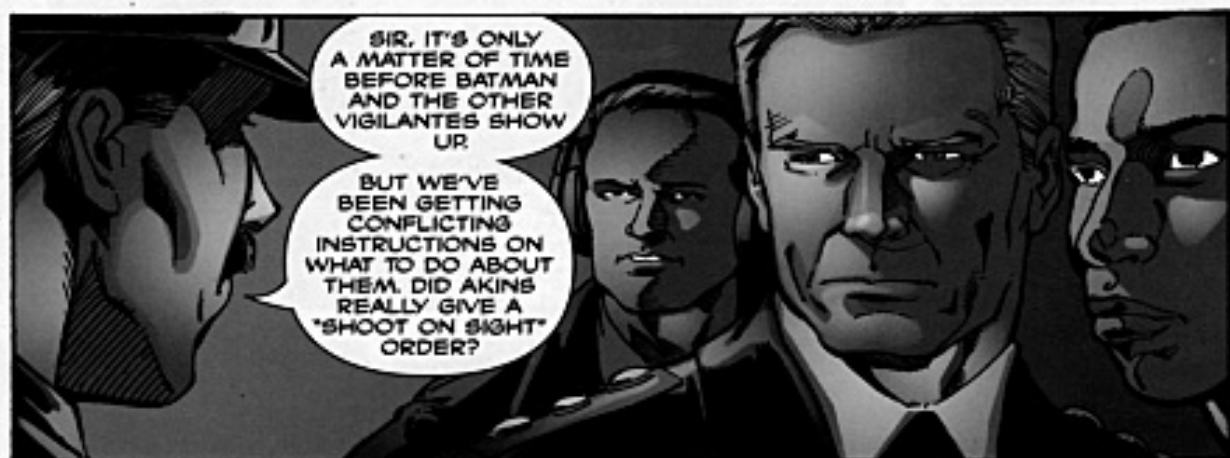




MOVE  
THOSE  
BARRICADES  
BACK,  
CAPTAIN!

I DON'T  
WANT TO SEE A  
BYSTANDER  
WITHIN A CITY  
BLOCK OF THIS  
PLACE, IN EVERY  
DIRECTION!

I'M  
ON IT,  
SIR.



SIR, IT'S ONLY  
A MATTER OF TIME  
BEFORE BATMAN  
AND THE OTHER  
VIGILANTES SHOW  
UP.

BUT WE'VE  
BEEN GETTING  
CONFLICTING  
INSTRUCTIONS ON  
WHAT TO DO ABOUT  
THEM. DID AKINS  
REALLY GIVE A  
"SHOOT ON SIGHT"  
ORDER?



COMMISSIONER AKINS,  
I RECOMMEND--

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR. I  
UNDERSTAND,  
BUT--

BUT--

NO, COMMISSIONER,  
I'M NOT REFUSING  
TO CARRY OUT YOUR  
ORDERS.





WHERE'S  
MY TACTICAL  
SQUADS?

SNIPERS  
ARE IN PLACE, SIR. ALL  
THREE RAPID-ENTRY  
TEAMS ARE ASSEMBLING  
AT THEIR STAGING AREAS  
NOW. WE'LL BE READY  
TO GO IN TEN  
MINUTES.

MAKE THAT  
FIVE MINUTES,  
LIEUTENANT, OR I'LL BE  
LOOKING FOR YOUR  
REPLACEMENT  
TOMORROW.

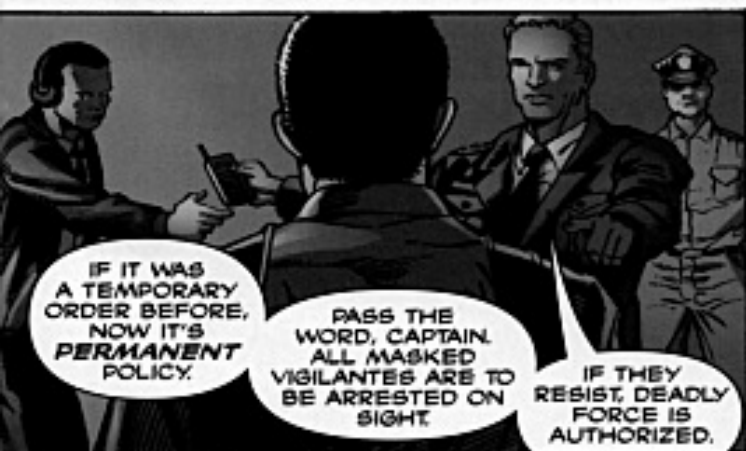


THAT'S  
**COMMISSIONER**  
AKINS TO YOU,  
YOUNG CAPTAIN.

AND, TO ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTION, I'M  
WAITING TO ADVISE THE  
COMMISSIONER ON  
JUST THAT SUBJECT



SIR, HE'S  
ON THE LINE NOW—  
ALONG WITH THE  
MAYOR.



IF IT WAS  
A TEMPORARY  
ORDER BEFORE,  
NOW IT'S  
**PERMANENT**  
POLICY.

PASS THE  
WORD, CAPTAIN.  
ALL MASKED  
VIGILANTES ARE TO  
BE ARRESTED ON  
SIGHT

IF THEY  
RESIST, DEADLY  
FORCE IS  
AUTHORIZED.



LORD  
HELP US.





EVERYONE  
HERE?

EXCEPT  
NIGHTWING.

HE'S OUT OF  
ACTION.

GUNSHOT  
WOUND TO  
THE LEG.

IT'S OFFICIAL.  
WE'RE NOW  
PERSONAE-NON-  
GRATAE WITH  
GOTHAM'S  
FINEST.



SO  
HOW ARE  
WE GOING  
IN?

WE  
AREN'T, I  
AM.

TOO MANY  
TRIGGER-HAPPY  
COPS BETWEEN  
US AND THE  
CLOCK TOWER.



YOU FIVE WILL STAY  
OUT HERE. SET UP A  
PERIMETER.

ANY NORMAL  
THUGS THAT COME  
OUT-LEAVE THEM  
FOR THE COPS.



ANY METAS--  
YOU'LL NEED TO FIND  
SOME WAY TO TAKE  
THEM OUT WITHOUT  
BECOMING TARGETS  
YOURSELF.



BE  
CAREFUL.









STEADY  
THE CAMERA,  
BOYS. KEEP IT  
ON ME.

GOT IT,  
BOSS.

I'VE STILL  
GOT SO  
MUCH LEFT  
TO SHOW.



WE'VE HARDLY  
FINISHED THE  
OPENING  
MONOLOGUE AND  
I HAVEN'T EVEN  
INTRODUCED THE  
FIRST GUEST YET.



MAKE SURE  
WE'RE NOT  
INTERRUPTED,  
BOYS.

SECURE  
THE STAIRWAY,  
IN CASE THE  
POLICE GET  
FRISKY.

I CAN  
HOLD DOWN  
THE FORT  
HERE.



YOU GOT  
IT, BOSS.

AREN'T  
THEY JUST  
WONDERFUL?  
RAISE YOUR  
BOYS RIGHT AND  
THEY'LL NEVER  
LET YOU  
DOWN.



ALONE  
AT LAST.

I'LL BET I  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
THINKING.

YOU'RE HOPING  
WE'VE REACHED  
THE ROMANTIC  
INTERLUDE IN  
OUR DRAMA.

NO, I'M  
HOPING THAT  
WHEN I PUKE,  
I GET MOST  
OF IT ON YOU.







IT'S  
TIME, BLACK  
MASK!

TIME  
TO END  
THIS!

















IT'S  
WHAT WE  
WERE TRAINED  
TO DO.



THEN  
WE'RE YOUR  
PRISONERS.

I SWEAR.



FAIR  
ENOUGH.



ON MY  
AUTHORITY, ALL  
OFFICERS WILL  
STAND DOWN AND  
PULL BACK.

THANK  
YOU!

BUT, SIR!  
AKINS WILL  
HAVE YOUR  
HEAD FOR  
THIS!



I'M THE  
TOP RANKING  
OFFICER ON THE  
SCENE. IT'S MY  
JUDGMENT  
CALL--NO ONE  
ELSE'S.

WE WILL  
STAND DOWN UNTIL  
THE CREATURE IS  
DEFEATED.







DO  
YOU HEAR THAT,  
BATMAN?

DO YOU  
SEE THAT THIS  
PLACE IS  
COMING DOWN  
AROUND US?

I'VE SET OFF  
THE EMERGENCY  
DESTRUCT SYSTEMS!  
THE WHOLE TOWER'S  
COMING DOWN!

IT'S  
IRREVERSIBLE  
AND MY ESCAPE  
ROUTES ARE  
BLOCKED.

GET IT?

I'M DEAD!  
I DON'T HAVE ANY  
WAY OUT, UNLESS  
YOU SAVE ME,  
BATMAN.

SAVE ME.



**KRAKA-THOOM**

IT'S  
COMING  
DOWN!

RUN!









HOW DID YOU EVER GET OUT ALIVE?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

BATMAN, YOU'D BETTER COME WITH US NOW.

THE WAR'S OVER, OFFICERS. THERE ARE NUMEROUS POTENTIAL CASUALTIES.

DO YOU *REALLY* WANT TO WASTE TIME WITH ME?



WE NEED TO BE CERTAIN BLACK MASK SOMEHOW DIDN'T ESCAPE.

--SXTTCZXX--  
HELLO?  
--SXTTCZXX--

IS THIS THING STILL WORKING?



IS THAT YOU, LESLIE? UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY, I NEED TO--

IT IS. YOU NEED TO COME TO THE CLINIC RIGHT AWAY.



--SSXXTTCZXX--  
MINUTES ONLY--  
SXXTTCCHHZXX--

SAY AGAIN, LESLIE! YOU'RE BREAKING UP!

O-- SSXXCTHHXX--  
STEPHANIE--  
SSXXTCHSSXX--



SHORTLY...









BATMAN?

I'M STILL  
HERE. I'M NOT  
GOING ANY-  
WHERE.



WHEN  
YOU LET  
ME BE  
ROBIN--

IT WASN'T  
JUST SOME KIND  
OF TRICK, WAS IT?  
A WAY TO GET TIM  
TO COME BACK?  
OR YOUR WAY TO  
SHOW ME I WASN'T  
CUT OUT FOR  
THE JOB?

STEPHANIE,  
I--



WAS ANY  
OF IT REAL?  
WAS I EVER  
REALLY  
ROBIN?

OF COURSE  
YOU WERE.



GOOD.



THEN I WAS  
REALLY PART OF  
IT-- PART OF THE  
LEGEND.

EVEN IF  
IT WAS ONLY  
FOR A LITTLE  
WHILE.







AND, TYPICALLY, HAVING CAUSED SO MUCH PAIN AND DEVASTATION, THEY FADE ONCE AGAIN INTO THE SHADOWS, LEAVING US TO BEGIN THE LONG PROCESS OF PICKING UP THE PIECES...



...AND TENDING TO OUR WOUNDED AND BURYING OUR DEAD.



HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

NONE OF THEM REALIZE WHAT WE SACRIFICED TO SAVE THIS CITY.

AND IT DOESN'T MATTER-- WE'LL CONTINUE THE FIGHT.



THIS WAR, THANK GOD, IS OVER. AND WE'LL BE HERE FOR EVERY ONE THAT FOLLOWS.



TWO DAYS  
LATER...

GATHER 'ROUND,  
GENTLEMEN.

AND  
LADIES.

LINE UP, WAIT  
YOUR TURN AND  
LET'S BE ON OUR  
BEST BEHAVIOR.

AND NO BIG  
SPEECHES. JUST  
PLEDGE YOUR  
LOYALTY AND  
MOVE ON, SO THE  
NEXT BOSS CAN  
STEP UP.

AFTERWARDS,  
REPORT TO THE  
CONFERENCE  
ROOM FOR YOUR  
NEW ASSIGNED  
TERRITORIES.



I PLEDGE MY  
PERSONAL LOYALTY  
TO YOU, BLACK MASK,  
AS THE UNCONTESTED  
BOSS OF BOSSES  
IN GOTHAM.

THE ODESSA  
GANG IS YOURS TO  
COMMAND.

LOVELY.

GLAD TO  
HEAR IT,  
COUNTSS.

NEXT?

THE END



# WAR GAMES

## CHECKLIST

Missed a chapter? Look for  
"War Games" Acts One – and Two,  
available now!

- BATMAN: THE 12-CENT ADVENTURE
- DETECTIVE COMICS #797
- BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #182
- NIGHTWING #96
- BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS #56
- ROBIN #129
- BATGIRL #55
- CATWOMAN #34
- BATMAN #631

### Act Two – "Tides" :

- DETECTIVE COMICS #798 – on sale 9/1
- BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #183  
– on sale 9/8
- NIGHTWING #97 – on sale 9/8
- BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS #57 – on sale 9/15
- ROBIN #130 – on sale 9/22
- BATGIRL #56 – on sale 9/22
- CATWOMAN #35 – on sale 9/22
- BATMAN #632 – on sale 9/29

The final act, "Endgame" can be found this  
month in the following titles

- DETECTIVE COMICS #799 – on sale 10/6
- BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #184  
– on sale 10/13
- NIGHTWING #98 – on sale 10/13
- ROBIN #131 – on sale 10/20
- BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS #58 – on sale 10/20
- BATGIRL #57 – on sale 10/20
- CATWOMAN #36 – on sale 10/27
- BATMAN #633 – on sale 10/27

THIS MONTH'S COVER BY:  
MATT WAGNER

### Next in... Batman #634

In "Decompression," fallout from the shocking events of "War Games" casts an ominous shadow over the future of the Dark Knight in Gotham City. By Gabrych, Lee and Horton.

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